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# The Churches of Europe Face Forward

Barstow



Reports from the  
Reconstruction Consultations at Presinge



## THE CHURCHES OF EUROPE FACE FORWARD

From March 28 to April 1, 1946, there were gathered at Geneva and at L'Abbaye de Presinge, just outside the city, for conference with the staff of the World Council Department of Reconstruction, more than a score of delegates representing the Interchurch Reconstruction Committees of fifteen different countries. The four major "helping" countries were Switzerland, Sweden, Britain and the United States. The countries needing help were Norway, Finland, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Austria, Germany, Italy, France, Belgium, and Holland. Representatives from Hungary and Southeastern Europe were not able to attend.

The purpose of the conference was to seek to assemble and integrate the facts as to the most pressing needs of the Churches and Christian Communities, and then to explore the ways in which available resources could be used most effectively. In addition to these practical considerations, it was of inestimable value to develop in those days of intensive fellowship and discussion, a new degree of spiritual solidarity, and a fresh realization of the Christian ideals and purposes which are held in common, surmounting all barriers of denominational loyalties, national boundaries or even the late division between "enemy" peoples.

### BASIC DEFINITIONS

The Very Rev. J. Hutchison Cockburn, Director of the Department of Reconstruction and Inter-Church Aid, in his opening address said: "The principles of ecumenical reconstruction work are to be found in the nature of the Universal Church, in the truth that when one member suffers, all the others suffer with it and despite is done to the body itself. Ecumenical giving is inspired therefore by the determination that all who can should help all who need, and the experience of the Church is that those churches help themselves most to a new life and vigour which have vision enough and courage enough to help others. This is true even in the case of one denomination helping a sister denomination in another country; but it is more abundantly true when giving rises above denominationalism to ecumenism. The fundamental truth of the universality of the Church of Christ compels us to recognize that denomina-

tional giving, however natural, is not the highest, and that ecumenical giving is a real work of the Grace of God."

### WIDER IMPLICATIONS

Dr. W. A. Visser 't Hooft, General Secretary of the World Council of Churches, expanded upon the significance of the present task as it is being faced unitedly. He said: "The World Council, by organizing reconstruction, is achieving a practical form of ecumenism, which affects millions of human beings. Reconstruction is not a temporary task, a moment in the history of the Church. It should become a definite and permanent element of ecumenism. It cannot restrict itself to being merely an organization for material relief. It must help the Churches to re-discover their sense of witness, and also their sense of belonging to the Universal Church. The Church must not simply rebuild on the old foundations, but should blaze new trails. Reconstruction should also give the Churches a new sense of their joint responsibility for the world. Finally, the Church should work for a spiritual regeneration in the heart of all the Churches."

### PROBLEMS OF PRIORITY

The relative urgency of needs in this tragic period of almost overwhelming disaster was carefully considered by the conference.

The Department of Reconstruction has the character of a clearing-house. Its national committees centralize and "sift" the requests and needs of the different communities. The Reconstruction Department is trying to draw up a list of the different requests in order of urgency, in face of the situation of each Church. At Geneva these requests are studied and classified in accordance with a system of priority, which distinguishes between the most bitter suffering, the most urgent needs, and everything that can if necessary wait for some years. We must act quickly. As Dr. Sylvester C. Michelfelder, Director of the Material Aid Division of the Department of Reconstruction, said: "What would be the use of building Churches, if their faithful members are deported or scattered before the Churches are finished; or building Sunday Schools if the children die of hunger before entering them?"

## TELLING FIGURES

The reports from the various countries, so rich in detail, would fill a whole volume, but here are a few striking facts.

In *Poland*, the most urgent task is to equip the parishes again and to create new pastors, for of 115 parishes there are only 64 Churches left, and out of 140 pastors only 58 are still alive. In *Czechoslovakia* the pastors have lost everything and their salary is less than 50% of the minimum required to live. In *Slovakia* 45% of the churches have been damaged. In *Hungary* the situation is disastrous; a pastor's salary is only worth the equivalent in purchasing power of \$1.20 a month and poverty is universal. In *Norway* and *Finland*, especially in the northern provinces, 80% of all the buildings are destroyed. In *Greece* the Orthodox Church has lost everything: food, clothes, fuel, prayer-books and theological books are needed. In *Germany* Church Aid (Evangelisches Hilfswerk) has undertaken work on a large scale and has collected within Germany itself a sum of 30,000,000 marks, for the purpose of helping the population, without distinction of confession. The "Hilfswerk" has also distributed 20,000 tons of goods and medical supplies worth 260,000 marks.

The Conference considered means of extending the work of the Church especially by opening institutes for the education of young laymen, the creation of scholarships for students, the exchange of theologians between the Universities of different countries, the publication of religious literature, the construction of temporary barracks, and the creation of an ecumenical loan-fund.

## COMPOSITE PICTURE

In order to provide at least a suggestive review of over-all conditions, the comments from the various countries have been analyzed according to major sub-divisions and are herewith presented in greatly abbreviated form. The full reports are on file in the office of the Commission but have not been reproduced in quantity.

## GENERAL REMARKS

### AUSTRIA

This report was prepared just before the establishment of the Austrian Reconstruction Committee in which the Evangelical

Church and the Free Churches are represented. It was impossible to give a complete picture of even the Evangelical (the largest) Church because many evacuated pastors had not been able to return to their homes by the end of December when this information was compiled.

## **BELGIUM**

Belgian Protestantism comprises 1% of the population and shared with the rest of the nation the hardships and distress of the occupation and has therefore also experienced the amelioration in living conditions which has taken place since the liberation.

Spiritual deterioration, e.g. "training to deceive" is marked in all classes of the population. Political tensions cause grave anxiety; everyone hopes that the forthcoming elections will clear the air.

War conditions have driven the Protestant groups, of which there are 16, closer together. With the exception of the Belgian Evangelical Mission, which stems from the U. S., all of them have joined hands in common action for relief and reconstruction. The ministers of all creeds took a firm stand against Nazi aggressions, particularly the persecution of the Jews, and many suffered for their courageous action.

## **CZECHOSLOVAKIA**

The position of the Czech Evangelical Churches in regard to the expropriation of the Sudeten Germans is the first topic in their report. Their conviction is that to leave an irreconcilable minority within the Czech Republic is suicidal, and that the first step toward the resumption of normal relations with the German people must be the elimination of that minority in as humane a way as possible, but as quickly as possible.

General conditions in the country have greatly improved since May 1945 and the nationalization of certain basic industries seized by the Nazis in 1938 is helping reconstruction.

The churches are now absolutely free of state interference and are proceeding with their own reconstruction plans as "free" churches, under the aegis of the Committee for Reconstruction and Inter-church Aid formed in Prague in August 1945. Churches represented are: Czechoslovak Church, Evan-



gelical Church of Czech Brethren, the Evangelical-Lutheran Church in Slovakia, the Reformed Church in Slovakia, the Baptist Church, the Methodist Church, and the Moravian Church (Unitas Fratrum). The Czech Orthodox Church, completely abolished by the Germans, is reviving its work.

It is hoped that the Association of Czechoslovak Protestant Churches will be revived and a real effort made to cultivate ecumenical relations at home and abroad. Joint evangelization weeks are being suggested.

#### **FINLAND**

As a result of two successive and destructive wars, Finland is in a very sad condition, and the economic situation is so bad that the churches can scarcely recover without generous outside help.

The war has had a very bad effect upon the morale of the people which throws an added burden on the churches.

The established church (Evangelical-Lutheran) is by far the largest church in Finland, comprising about 96 per cent of the people. The other denominations represented on the Joint Reconstruction Committee are the Greek Orthodox, Methodist (Finnish speaking and Swedish speaking), Baptist (Finnish speaking and Swedish speaking), and the Finnish Free Church corresponding to the Congregational Church.

#### **FRANCE**

Political, social and economic conditions have forced changes, both spiritual and material, upon France since 1918. The second world war has accelerated these changes and given the national life a new direction. The old individualism is dying. A religious awakening may well be looked for.

French Protestantism is a minority faith, its adherents are scattered and suffering from effects of two wars and naturally conservative in nature. It is conscious of its new, enlarged mission and realizes that it must look abroad for help, but it also knows that it can count on sacrificial giving at home.

With the exception of a few independents, the Protestant churches of France are now grouped in the French Protestant Federation.

#### **GERMANY**

The report from Germany summarized the findings of the December and January meetings of the German Reconstruction

Committee and dealt both with physical and strictly church relief. Collections in Germany had brought in substantial amounts which were distributed among the stricken population of Eastern Germany. Food amounting to 518,667 tons was collected (in the American zone largely), 500 tons of clothing came in as a Christmas collection. The first help from abroad came with a shipment of food and medicine from Switzerland and 60 tons of clothing have come from Sweden. A missing persons bureau has been set up by the committee with the cooperation of the catholic "Caritas" and the Red Cross. Prisoners of war have received friendly aid from the ecumenical centre which is most gratefully acknowledged. A generous gift of books and literature from Switzerland was distributed and the first wooden churches received in Freiburg, Frankfurt and Stuttgart; with two more expected.

The report concludes with an itemized account of the distribution of aid thus far gathered or received, among them 67 boxes of toys made by German prisoners.

#### **GREECE**

The report covers in very condensed form only the losses of Orthodox churches. A kindly rapprochement seems to have taken place between them and the Evangelicals, however.

#### **ITALY**

After a brief introduction reviewing the events from the first World War to the second, the report describes the disillusionment that followed upon "liberation," and the economic paralysis that descended upon the hapless country. Deadly uncertainty prevails everywhere; the Protestant minority feels it very keenly in view of the political dominance of the Roman Catholics. But Protestants feel sustained by ecumenical fellowship.

#### **LUXEMBOURG**

The Protestant Church of this little country seems to be generally enfeebled rather than suffering particularly from the war; its total membership is only about 2,000. The Roman Catholic Church is rather hostile since the court became Catholic about a generation ago.

#### **NETHERLANDS**

The whole situation is summarized in one sentence: "The great damage done during the liberation was a price we gladly



paid for our freedom." Reference is made to the blessing of the rapprochement of formerly aloof churches and the common front against the persecutions of the Jews. Famine led to the formation of an emergency organization by the churches and did great work. The motto was: "The whole Church for all the people." Self-help is stressed; many undamaged towns have adopted stricken ones. Swiss and Swedish help boosted morale when it was at lowest ebb.

## NORWAY

During the war a network of spiritual warfare was built up based on unshakeable confidence in the inherent power of right and justice. After the unanimous resignation of the Supreme Court late in 1940, only the church remained as the public spokesman for righteousness and bore a heavy responsibility for the national morale, intellectual freedom and rights of the individual. It remains to be seen whether the spirit of sacrifice and solidarity engendered by the occupation persists through the hard task of restoring the national economy, so badly wrecked by looting and destruction.

Spiritual reconstruction also places on the church the moral obligation of guiding the collaborationists when their prison sentences are fulfilled, and looking after their hapless families.

## POLAND

Warsaw grimly illustrates the situation of all Poland: a peace of ruins, with an estimated 100,000 dead still buried under the rubble. About one-half million of the original population of 1,300,000 have found their way back and are living among the wreckage.

A National Protestant Polish Reconstruction Committee was formed in 1945. First gift from outside was 600 sacks of clothing from Sweden. The Protestant minorities are readily overlooked because of Roman Catholic influence with embassies and relief agencies. Over-all scheme of distribution by percentage according to size of constituencies.

Outside Warsaw the Masuren Area with 90,000 Protestants is worse off. The country is picked clean.

National officials assure religious freedom for Polish Protestants and on the whole have proved cooperative.

## PASTORS

### AUSTRIA

Granted that most of the men now in Prisoner of War Camps will soon return home, there will be no shortage of pastors. To fill the present gaps 20 to 25 refugee pastors from Eastern Europe have been enlisted.

### BELGIUM

Increase of ministerial personnel is a vital necessity. Theological courses started during the war and had good results and should be resumed as it is most desirable to have part of ministerial training in the country. Financial help from without is needed to subsidize a faculty.

### FINLAND

Position very difficult—salaries less than industrial laborers.

### FRANCE

French Protestantism lost much ministerial personnel during the war, and the present ministers are badly underpaid and undernourished. A summary of the losses shows:

1. Killed in action	14
2. Died in Germany	7 (and several missing)
3. Executed	1
4. Victims of bombs	9

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31

### ITALY

Pastors suffered severely from loss of homes and chattels, but more from currency fluctuations. Substantial salary increases should be made.

### LUXEMBOURG

At present there is only one active pastor, M. Housse, a "veteran" of two terms in Nazi prison camps, in poor health. A second pastor is greatly needed as there are two large city congregations and a "diaspora," and many Protestant institutions to look after.

### NETHERLANDS

Pastors suffered with their flocks in the air raids and demolitions. Dutch Reformed Church—93 pastors lost everything. Lutheran Church—several pastors put in prison, one of them

died. Reformed Church—several pastors went to concentration camps. Christian Reformed Church—One pastor killed at Apeldoorn.

#### **POLAND**

Lutheran church membership gone from 500,000 to 120,000. Of 140 pastors, 58 are left. Baptists here dropped from 10,000 to 5,000 in Warsaw. Led mostly by laymen.

### **THEOLOGICAL FACULTIES**

#### **AUSTRIA**

The theological faculty in Vienna will continue to receive some aid from the state. Several vacancies need to be filled and guest professors are greatly desired. For these ecumenical aid will be necessary.

Students now number 10, of whom 3 are Orthodox guests—an interesting demonstration of the new ecumenical spirit. Six additional students are being considered for scholarships, preferably to a foreign university, if ecumenical aid could help out at this point.

#### **CZECHOSLOVAKIA**

The Czechoslovak Church and Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren are cooperating in the Hus Theological Divinity School. The faculty represents both churches and welcomes foreign contacts. Its library needs assistance.

#### **FINLAND**

Books and religious periodicals are needed by the theological faculties at Helsinki and Abo.

#### **GREECE**

Re-opening of theological seminaries is hindered by complete lack of equipment for both classrooms and resident students.

#### **LUXEMBOURG**

Pastors for this small Lutheran Church usually come from Germany (frequently Alsace).

#### **NETHERLANDS**

Old Catholic Seminary at Amsterdam was a hiding place for the underground. Its equipment in bad repair, no linen or bedding left. Christian Reformed school at Apeldoorn seriously damaged.

## **POLAND**

Only the research library of theological faculty at Warsaw was saved. Students are carrying on without books. A mimeograph is greatly desired to take place of text books. Foreign books and periodicals desired.

## **SCHOOLS AND TRAINING CENTRES**

### **AUSTRIA**

Church schools came to an end in 1938 and of the 100 schools then in operation, three will have to be completely rebuilt, the Karls-Schule in Vienna, the teachers training college and the theological college. The loss of the Karls-Schule was more keenly felt because it was the gift of the Emperor Francis Joseph I, in 1862.

### **BELGIUM**

The Protestant Grammar Schools for isolated congregations need help in a country that is ultra-catholic. Scholarships are particularly desired.

### **CZECHOSLOVAKIA**

Centres for lay training are being developed by a number of churches. The Slovak Reformed Church is starting one at Kosice. Vocational guidance, new techniques of preaching and religious instruction are being studied.

### **GREECE**

Textbooks, writing materials, Bibles, etc., are all a minus quantity.

### **ITALY**

Schools have been reopened, but needed new ones—especially a high school in Sicily—must wait for better days.

### **NETHERLANDS**

Quakers lost school equipment.

### **POLAND**

Lutheran schools for 800 boys and 300 girls gone. All school equipment, pencils, paper, textbooks lacking.

## **PLANTS AND STRUCTURES**

### **AUSTRIA**

Devastation has left its mark on the Austrian Church:

8 churches wholly destroyed

6 parsonages wholly destroyed

- 5 churches badly damaged
- 9 parsonages damaged or plundered
- 1 evangelical school wholly destroyed (the well-known Karlsplatz school in Vienna)

The Swiss church aid has promised a wooden church for Wien-Neustadt. All these buildings are badly needed and should be replaced, for which no resources are available. Two more barrack churches are urgently needed for refugee centers at the Vienna railroad stations, for which 2 Swiss nurses have already been offered.

## BELGIUM

As to material destruction:

Entirely destroyed—4 churches; 2 parsonages

Badly damaged—4 churches; 4 parsonages

Lightly damaged—19 churches

(The promised wooden chapels will be a big help)

More or less damaged or equipment lost—12 welfare institutions

## CZECHOSLOVAKIA

The churches in Slovakia suffered heaviest from devastation.

### *Lutheran*

Places of worship damaged—172—19 of them heavily

Parish houses 152

Schools and other buildings 50

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374

### *Reformed*

Churches almost all destroyed 20

Churches damaged 40

Parish houses destroyed 12

Parish houses damaged 19

Schools and other buildings destroyed 38

Schools and other buildings damaged 241

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370

### *Czechoslovak Church*

Buildings lost or damaged—32

### *Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren*

Entirely destroyed—1 church

### *Baptist*

Churches damaged—4

### *Methodist*

Churches damaged—4

There are 2 requests for wooden churches, 1 from Czechoslovak Church and 1 from Moravian Church.

## **FINLAND**

In the diocese of Oulu, 10 churches destroyed, 14 parsonages, 11 other church properties. In the diocese of Kuopio, 9 churches, 4 parsonages. In the diocese of Borga, 2 churches, 1 parsonage. The Free Churches have lost 17 churches or other buildings.

## **FRANCE**

The French government has undertaken to supply some of the reconstruction which will be needed, but the pressure of the most urgent public works and housing will make its aid for church reconstruction very slow to materialize.

In certain regions population shifts make new churches and mission halls necessary with a new type of building better designed to meet the competition of ideological "attractions."

Total of churches destroyed—72; damaged—140

Total of manses destroyed—40; damaged—86

Total of welfare works destroyed—6; damaged—7

## **GERMANY**

(Estimated)

Evangelical Churches and parish houses destroyed—  
3,500

Damaged—5,000

These do not include "free" churches or Roman Catholic.

## **GREECE**

Damage to church buildings, manses, and institutions cannot yet be estimated. The money received from the American churches will be applied to the most urgent repairs.

## **ITALY**

Methodist Church in Turin destroyed; manse of Waldensian Church in Turin destroyed; Waldensian churches at San Remo and Leghorn, Vallecrosia destroyed, (others damaged); Baptist Church at Civita Vecchio destroyed; two wooden churches are urgently needed.



## NETHERLANDS

Tremendous destruction has not yet been estimated. Many villages and towns have utterly disappeared. Rebuilding depends on priorities of need. By churches the story runs (destroyed or heavily damaged):

Dutch Reformed Church—with 300 communities—224 churches, 218 parsonages, 261 other buildings.

Lutheran Church—heavy losses.

Mennonites—lost several churches.

Reformed Church—several churches damaged.

Old Catholic Church—church and parsonage in Rotterdam completely destroyed and several others damaged.

Salvation Army—lost eight buildings and others damaged.

Christian Reformed Church—five churches and manses gone.

## NORWAY

Roughly half of the losses by enemy action, demolition or liberation bombings will eventually be indemnified by the government, but this will be in the indefinite future. The repairs and rebuilding will take into account changed conditions and needs.

Finnmark was the heaviest sufferer: out of 49 churches, 26 were destroyed; 15 manses, 15 destroyed.

Most of the remaining churches are in bad repair and in many cases are the only structures still standing in the area because used by the Nazis for their own purposes.

Immediate need for 20 temporary wooden structures, serving as meeting houses, vicarages, and other emergency uses. A "church boat" has already been fitted out (thanks to ecumenical aid) and will make the rounds of the isolated coast villages. It will be served by two pastors.

## POLAND

The Lutheran Church of Warsaw lost 15 out of 17 buildings. About 3,000 Polish members left. Reformed Church heavily damaged. Baptist and Evangelical churches lost their chapels. Methodists lost their 8 story building.

Some buildings seized by Roman Catholics. Orthodox Church lost 100 churches by destruction and 200 to Roman Catholics who are trying to diminish this constituency by removal to Russian territory.

## CHRISTIAN LITERATURE

### AUSTRIA

Protestant Austria has no publishing house of its own and its press was suspended in 1941. Plans for revival have been made but progress will be slow. There is a great lack of devotional books, Bibles, hymnals and foreign religious literature. The 2 tons of paper promised from Sweden will supply the evangelical press for two months; 90,000 sheets are needed for the 1946 calendar which has been ready for months, and 140,000 sheets are needed for reprinting hymn books for which plates are still on hand. Paper is also needed for 20,000 new catechisms and for other publications. The following libraries need theological books in German, French and English: the Consistory in Vienna, the Provincial Youth Ministry, the Evangelical Theological Faculty, the Austrian Pastors' Guild. "We know nothing about publications which have appeared abroad since 1938."

### BELGIUM

The publication of Christian literature almost ceased due to paper and other shortages. Bibles, tracts, etc., are practically used up with demands increasing.

Three publications should have help at once:

Walloon countries: "Paix et Liberte"

\*Flanders: "Kruisbanier" and "Het Christelyk Volksblad"

\*These two are also circulated in Holland.

Formation of Belgian Bible Society with aid of British and Scottish Bible Societies will be most helpful to relieve the Bible and tract shortage. Instruction manuals for elementary and higher schools are urgently required. The Evangelical Library is very low in stocks and funds and is essential as a distributing center for Christian literature.

### CZECHOSLOVAKIA

New theological literature both domestic and foreign is greatly desired. Bibles, tracts are still low. Fifty sets of the New and Old Testaments in the originals, with vocabularies are needed for the Bible Study Seminars. Books on religious education, catechisms and hymnals, etc., and Sunday School material are requested.

*Slovak Lutheran Church* lost extensive publishing equipment and would like paper, cloth and machinery.

There is a disastrous dearth of books, Bibles, hymnals. Foreign books, published since the war by outstanding Christian writers, are eagerly sought "by the hundreds." The total needs run into thousands of copies. Encouraging progress has been made in replacing the outstanding periodicals by the new journal "Reforme."

#### GREECE

All literature, ritual and hymn books, Bibles and periodicals are either out-of-print or held at inflation prices. Existing conditions do not permit new printings.

#### ITALY

Paper is urgently needed to revive essential publications. The Methodist paper has not yet reappeared; "La Luce" comes out every two weeks, and "L'Eco dalle V.V." weekly on bad paper.

#### NETHERLANDS

All literature, Bibles, hymnals, etc., in great demand.

#### NORWAY

Great scarcity of Bibles, testaments and hymnals. The materials for printing would have to be imported. It is hoped that 25,000 Bibles and the same number of New Testaments will soon come from Britain and U. S.

#### POLAND

Books and literature practically non-existent as so much of Warsaw was burned. Plans are being made to revive a couple of church periodicals and to start an ecumenical weekly. Plans without paper!

### EVANGELIZATION

#### AUSTRIA

The Evangelical Press Association and the Inner Mission are jointly responsible for this field. An "evangelization week" planned for the autumn of 1946 to begin in Vienna, will require help.

#### BELGIUM

The normal work of evangelization was severely hampered by war restrictions. Lack of communications is still a grave obstacle. Interest in religious teaching is growing, with many new opportunities opening up among displaced and repatriated people.

## CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Every church is bending its efforts to increase evangelization, it is hoped to have joint evangelization weeks like the British "Religion and Life" weeks before long.

## FRANCE

Evangelization needs all kinds of materials, equipment for colportage and field work. Itinerant teams need to be fitted out for certain areas and provision should be made for centralized organization, meetings, conferences, etc.

## ITALY

The work of evangelization has proceeded, but in spite of the almost complete absence of Bibles and evangelical literature. Open-air services are being held with gratifying success.

## NETHERLANDS

The Dutch Church wants to be the "Militia of Christ."

### INNER MISSION (Christian Welfare Work)

## AUSTRIA

Christian welfare work though it suffered heavily from confiscation and expropriations has survived, though with great losses and a staggering deficit. Exact figures are not yet available (many of the largest institutions are in the Russian Zone) but bombings and plundering, antiquated equipment and critical shortages of supplies like bedding and blankets make the outlook dark. Deep concern is felt for the sick, aged and orphans for whom clothing, too, is desperately needed.

## BELGIUM

A "Foyer du Soldat" should be founded at Beverloo, the big military training center through which all conscripts pass and the chaplaincies for Latvian and German prisoners of war should be increased.

"Silo" is deeply grateful for help received but much remains to be done.

## CZECHOSLOVAKIA

*Lutheran Church* had 3 orphanages much damaged, 1 young people's home destroyed and 3 damaged.

*Methodist Church* reports heavy damage to an orphanage and an old people's home.

## FINLAND

Many buildings lost to the Finnish Church through the cession of land to Russia. Some institutions from this area are now temporarily functioning elsewhere.

## FRANCE

Certain damaged institutions can count on government aid as "public utilities;" all are in dire need of refurbishing and re-equipment, many suffered from looting.

## ITALY

Heavy losses were sustained by Evangelical welfare institutions.

## NORWAY

In Finnmark *every* welfare institution was destroyed and inmates driven out along with the rest of the population.

## POLAND

Lutheran hospital of 250 beds destroyed. Deaconesses Home "Tabitha" is intact, but lost all equipment. The old people's home, orphanage and incurables' home are lost.

## YOUTH WORK

### AUSTRIA

All Christian youth organizations were dissolved in 1938 and valuable properties seized for the Hitler Youth. Assistance is urgently needed along these lines:

Replacement of lost and ruined buildings

Special publications

Contacts with youth abroad

Camps and lecture courses

Transportation

Physical relief.

The following replacements are most urgent:

\*Landskron House (in Ossiachersee) with room for about 100

Gosau Home with room for 60

Sulz (near Vienna)

Auhof House in Türnitz (Methodist)

\*This confiscated property has been given back but stripped of all equipment from beds to saucepans.

These places are needed as training, Bible study and recreation centres.

## BELGIUM

Youth work was also brought almost to a standstill and what little there was lived underground with the young people seeking to escape the Nazi press-gangs. A youth secretary is badly needed.

## CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Slovak Lutheran Church needs to rebuild youth movement—40,000 members. Three summer camps must be entirely rebuilt. Reformed Church is planning instruction courses for youth leaders. Czechoslovak Church and Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren each need one permanent Conference centre for summer and winter schools. Baptist and Methodist are preparing holiday camps. All would appreciate help for purchase of equipment.

## FRANCE

Youth work in Protestant France has expressed itself nobly in "CIMADE" which is well known to American Christians.

## GREECE

Youth work (including Sunday Schools) is severely hampered by dearth of simple equipment and supplies.

## ITALY

The youth movement is being reorganized and plans are being laid for a permanent conference center up in the Valleys.

## TRANSPORTATION

### AUSTRIA

The dearth of trains and buses make additional means of getting around imperative, especially in the rural parishes, often miles apart. Badly needed are:

1 truck	8 motorcycles
10 cars	24 bicycles

to replace those that disappeared in the war.



## CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Critical lack of transportation facilities, not a single motor car available to visit outlying parishes. Needs:

Lutheran Church 6 cars

Reformed Church 6 cars

Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren 30 cars

Others need cars and some bicycles as well.

## FINLAND

Bicycles are greatly needed by the clergy and several lorries for the reconstruction work.

## LUXEMBOURG

An auto to enable Pastor Housse to reach his scattered congregation is an urgent necessity.

## NETHERLANDS

Transportation is at all time low especially for pastors who must visit dispersed congregations.

## MATERIAL AID

### AUSTRIA

All sorts of food supplies and equipment are sorely needed by the following categories of people:

Deported Jewish-Christians

Repatriated internees

Children, especially in cities

Inmates of hospitals and institutions

Adolescents in Vienna

Pastors and workers

The situation in Vienna is made worse daily by fresh influx of returning evacuees and refugees.

Pastor refugees in some cases have fled five or six times since leaving their original homes in Transylvania or Poland. Many seek to return to Germany, but are stopped by the zoning regulations. They are stranded destitute in Austria. About 25 have been put to work in the Evangelical Church, leaving at least 60 to be cared for otherwise. They are valuable and highly trained men.

## **BELGIUM**

Pastors' salaries need additional "lift." And help from Swiss churches has already been most beneficial. Men need rest, medical care, and extra food. Clothing too is scarce, especially shoes. Many workers especially lay evangelists and colporteurs are anemic.

Thanks to ecumenical aid, five pastors who lost everything have been indemnified, a spiritual as well as material consolation.

## **CZECHOSLOVAKIA**

Clothing and household equipment welcomed for all Slovak pastors, for 330 ministers of the Czechoslovak Church, the Moravians, Methodists, and other churches. In Slovakia books and gowns are needed as well.

Extra food rations are critically needed for children's homes and hospitals. Fats and soap are lacking.

## **FINLAND**

Five hundred bales of clothing and shoes have been received from American Lutherans.

## **FRANCE**

Pastors need clothing, equipment, extra food and rest. In the devastated areas they literally lost everything.

## **GERMANY**

Everything! Basic ration desperately low. Refugees and evacuees stripped of everything.

## **GREECE**

Clergy and parishioners need food, clothing, and fuel. Household equipment is desperately needed.

## **POLAND**

Food and clothing desperately needed by pastors, deaconesses and parishioners, thousands of whom have lost everything. Household equipment is unobtainable.

Farm animals are almost extinct in the Masuren area.

Students in Warsaw threatened with tuberculosis, sleeping on the floor.

## CONCLUSION

Here, then, in briefest outline are some of the factors in a situation that despite its tragedy is full of high courage and determination. It is for us of the American Churches to demonstrate by our sharing and our serving, the vigor of our own Christian faith. Let our valiant brethren overseas not look to us in vain as they seek to resume and revitalize the work of Christ's kingdom. Such spiritual undergirding is essential for the saving of men's souls and the redemption of human society.

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Commission for World Council Service  
ROBBINS W. BARSTOW, *Director*

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NOTE: We are indebted to Miss Antonia Froendt for assistance in analyzing and condensing these documents so that they might be presented in this convenient form.

R. W. B.

The Commission for World Council Service is now merged with the Church Committee for Relief in Asia and the Church Committee for Overseas Relief and Reconstruction. The new united agency is *Church World Service, Inc.*, 37 East 36th Street, New York 16, New York. All communications, including requests for additional copies of this pamphlet should be sent to Dr. Barstow at the new address.

